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Another CIA Cover?

CPYRGHT

SENATOR J. William Fulbright was right to ask the Central Intelligence Agency for an explanation of its policy in allowing one of its analysts to present official statements and conclusions to American readers in the guise of independent scholarship.

The point was raised by the Senator as a result of the publication in the current issue of the magazine, Foreign Affairs, of an article on Viet Nam by George A. Carver Jr., who is a specialist on Viet Nam and a full-time analyst for the CIA. Despite the fact that Mr. Carver, like other government officials, presumably had to have his article approved as conforming to official policy, his connection with the intelligence agency was not revealed by the editors of the magazine.

The important issue in this case is not the viewpoint that Mr. Carver was presenting but the fact that his article was in effect a government policy argument camouflaged as something else. This is one more example of the CIA using a supposedly independent, non-partisan vehicle (a scholarly magazine) to promote its own purposes; which may or may not be proper. Another example of the same thing was disclosed recently when the CIA turned out to be using a Michigan State University project in Viet Nam as a cover for its own devious operations.

The saddest aspect of these disclosures is that they undermine the public confidence in the integrity of reputable institutions that are not in the business of propaganda and espionage.